

Appl. No. 10/770,943  
Amdt. dated May 8, 2008  
Reply to Office Action of February 25, 2008

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please cancel claims 2, 3, 9, and 13 without prejudice and amend claims 1, 4, 6, 11, and 15-17 as follows:

1. (currently amended): A pseudodevice for communicating between a network-resident software application and a user device, the pseudodevice comprising:
  - a first port for communications between the network-resident software application and the pseudodevice;
  - a second port for communications between the pseudodevice and the user device;
  - a first interface function associated with the first port for receiving a message request from the network-resident software application and for sending a response to the network-resident software application, wherein the message request from the network-resident software application comprises query parameters to specify the type of query to send to the user device and the query parameters comprise a query type, query strings, a target username, and a source username supplied by the pseudodevice, wherein the instant message when received in the user device appears to come from an instant messaging user separate from the pseudodevice; and
  - a second interface function associated with the second port for sending in response to the message request an instant message to the user device in a format adapted for communication with an instant messaging client resident on the user device, and receiving an

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HTTP request from a web browser located on the user device, providing a selected response to the received HTTP request, and sending an HTTP response in a format adapted for communication with an HTTP client on the user device.

2. and 3. canceled

4. (currently amended): The pseudodevice of claim 31, wherein the query type further comprises:

a type display for use in displaying strings to the user device;

a type choose for offering a menu of choices; and

a type prompt for requesting information to be entered.

5. (previously presented): The pseudodevice of claim 1 further comprising:

a session ID generator for assigning a unique session ID for a message request from the network-resident software application;

a request table for maintaining a unique session ID mapping to the software application that initiated the message request;

an instant messaging message formatter for formatting a message to conform to an instant messaging interface standard;

an instant messaging client/server for use in sending messages to another instant messaging user; and

an HTTP server for receiving HTTP requests, providing a selected response to a received HTTP request, and sending HTTP responses.

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6. (currently amended): A method for communicating between a network-resident software application and a user device through a network-resident component, the method comprising:

receiving in the network-resident component a message request from the network-resident software application, wherein the message request from the network resident software application comprises a query type, query strings to be displayed, a target user name parameter for the instant messaging name of the user device, and a source user name parameter supplied by the network-resident component to specify an arbitrary source;

translating in the network-resident component the message request to a hyperlinked instant message to the user device in a format adapted for communication with an instant messaging client resident on the user device;

sending the hyperlinked instant message from the network-resident component to the user device;

receiving in the network-resident component an HTTP request from a web browser located in the user device as a user response to a user action that was elicited by the hyperlinked instant message;

sending from the network-resident component to the user device a selected type of HTTP response dependent upon the type of HTTP request received; and

sending the user response from the network-resident component to the network-resident software application that initiated the message request for selected types of HTTP requests.

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7. (original): The method of claim 6 wherein the message request from the network-resident software application is a display message request.

8. (original): The method of claim 6 wherein the message request from the network-resident software application is a choose message request.

9. canceled

10. (previously presented): The method of claim 6, wherein the hyperlinked instant message further comprises:

an embedded unique session identifier, unique message type, and unique message identifier for selected message requests that elicit a user response in a uniform resource locator (URL) associated with a hyperlinked text message that is sent to the user device, where the URL is used by the user device to identify the network-resident component for sending a response.

11. (currently amended): A method for requesting information from a user by communicating between a network-resident software application and a user device through a network-resident component, the method comprising:

receiving in the network-resident component a message request for information from a user from the network-resident software application, wherein the message request from the network resident software application further comprises a query type, query strings to be displayed, a target user name parameter for the instant messaging name of the user device, and a source user name parameter supplied by the network-resident component to specify an arbitrary source;

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translating in the network-resident component the message request to a hyperlinked instant message to the user device in a format adapted for communication with an instant messaging client resident on the user device;

sending the hyperlinked instant message from the network-resident component to the user device;

receiving in the network-resident component a first HTTP request from a web browser located in the user device as a response to a user action that was elicited by the hyperlinked instant message;

sending from the network-resident component to the user device a selected type of HTTP response including a web form for entry of the requested information, in response to the first HTTP request;

receiving in the network-resident component a second HTTP request from the user device's web browser as a user response to a user action that was elicited by the selected type of HTTP response, the user response including the web form filled out with the requested information; and

sending the user response including the requested information from the network-resident component to the network-resident software application that initiated the message request for selected types of HTTP requests.

12. (original): The method of claim 11 wherein the message request from the network-resident software application is a prompt message request.

13. canceled

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14. (previously presented): The method of claim 11, wherein the hyperlinked instant message further comprises:

an embedded unique session identifier, unique message type, and unique message identifier for selected message requests that elicit a user response in a uniform resource locator (URL) associated with a hyperlinked text message that is sent to the user device, where the URL is used by the user device to identify the network-resident component for sending a response.

15. (currently amended): A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computer system to perform in a unified real-time manner interactions between at least one network-resident software application and at least one user device through a network-resident component, by performing the steps of:

~~responding receiving to~~ a selected message request ~~received in the network-~~ resident component from the network-resident software application, wherein the selected message request from the network resident software application further comprises a query type, query strings to be displayed, a target user name parameter for the instant messaging name of the user device, and a source user name parameter supplied by the network-resident component to specify an arbitrary source;

translating in the network-resident component the selected message request to an instant message in a selected instant message format adapted for communication with an instant messaging client resident on the user device;

sending the instant message from the network-resident component to the user device;

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communicating and adapting the communications between the network-resident component and a web browser HTTP client resident on the user device for selected message requests; and

sending a user response from the network-resident component to the network-resident software application that initiated the message request for selected message requests.

16. (currently amended): The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein the network-resident component comprises:

a first software interface function which is used for responding to ~~a~~the selected message request from the network-resident software application and sending a user response to the network-resident software application that initiated the message request for selected message requests; and

a second software interface function which is used for translating ~~a~~the selected message request to a selected instant message format adapted for communication with an instant messaging client resident on the user device, sending the instant message from the network-resident component to the user device, and communicating and adapting the communications with an HTTP client resident on the user device for selected message requests.

17. (currently amended): A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computer system to perform in a unified real-time manner interactions between at least one network-resident software application and at least one user device, the computer system having a pseudodevice as a unified software interface function that provides an interface between the at least one network-resident software application and the at least one user device, by performing:

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~~responding-receiving to~~ a selected message request in the pseudodevice from the network-resident software application, wherein the selected message request from the network resident software application further comprises a query type, query strings to be displayed, a target user name parameter for the instant messaging name of the user device, and a source user name parameter supplied by the pseudodevice to specify an arbitrary source;

translating in the pseudodevice a the selected message request to a selected instant message format adapted for communication with an instant messaging client resident on the user device;

communicating and adapting the communications between a web browser's HTTP client resident on the user device and the pseudodevice for selected message requests; and

sending a user response from the pseudodevice to the network-resident software application that initiated the message request for selected message requests.